

Conservation Man of the Year from p. 1



Contractor O.J. Kemmerer works on terrace.

even though the government won't pay its share until later," he says.

He points out that it costs less than having the contractor come back and finish the work later. "I get a better price from the contractor because he does more work at one time."

"I've made the terraces my number one priority because they work; I've seen it."

In the area of chemical use, the Swansons have been doing several things for the control of cheatgrass and other weeds.

"In the fall we spray herbicides to control the cheatgrass instead of a lot of tillage. This saves moisture in the soil, maybe an inch and a quarter, not to mention four trips of tillage."

"Our biggest problem is cheatgrass now, but what we've done is put a chaff spreader on the back of the combine. Then a month after harvest we go in and disc it."

The first iron printing press to be used was the Stanhope press, invented by Charles, the third Earl of Stanhope in 1798.

That chops up straw and makes the cheat come up in the spring," he says.

Jim says he sprays the cheat in the spring and then comes back in the fall to spray with a residual chemical that kills the weed.

"We are going to do this four years and hopefully kill off 70 to 80 percent of the cheatgrass seeds."

He points out they have done a lot of expensive things for the control of weeds, including spraying roadways and around storage bins, and burning grass waterways.

Swanson also points to a new machine on the farm used to separate weed seeds from grain before planting.

"I think one of our major accomplishments is our seed processing," he says in referring to the new Carter Disc machine, which takes out nearly all the goatgrass seed, leaving a clean seed to plant in the fields.

The machine was designed to separate barley seed, but since goatgrass is the same size as barley, it works very well, says Jim.

"It's the best machine available at this time. We think the only thing you can do is start with clean seed, so we've gone out and bought a good system."

The Swansons have also participated in numerous test plots with chemical companies, testing the effectiveness of different chemicals. "It's hard because you have to farm around them, but it's worth it," he says.

The Swanson farm is a family operation. Following the death of his father in 1975, Jim and Monica, who keeps books for the operation, bought out his sister's and two brothers' shares in the farm. His mother, Irene, who lives in Heppner is still a share holder in the farming corporation. He and Monica have two children, Adrienne, 14 months, and Luke, four and one-half.

They have also diversified, and own an insurance business in Ione.

Also an important member of the farming operation is the Swansons' farm manager Conrad Tworek.

"I can't say enough about his ability," says Jim. "I go over the basic operation with

him and he takes it from there."

A graduate of Ione High School, and a 1974 Oregon State graduate in agronomic crop science, Jim has been extensively involved with community and farming groups including:

Co. Wheat League president - 1978; Board of Directors Morrow County Grain Growers - 80-82; current president of the Jordan Elevator Co.; Board of Directors of the Morrow Experiment Station since 1980; Board of Directors of the Oregon Wheat Growers

League; National Board for Crop Insurance, National Wheat Growers League; Chairman of the Morrow County Extension Advisory Committee; Elks Hoop Shoot and Scholarship Committee Chairman since 1975; president of the Ione Booster Club since 1978; member of the A.S.C.S. county committee from 1979 to 82; member of grange; member of the Lions Club; member of the Youth Committee for St. William's Catholic Church; and is a member of the Heppner-Morrow Chamber of Commerce.

The Morrow County Conservation Man of the Year is chosen by a committee consisting of a representative of the Wheat League, the past year's winner, a representative of the A.S.C.S. county committee, and a representative from the soil and water district.

"Jim has been real progressive in dealing with conservation needs and has been willing to try new things," says

Adelman. "Tillage is his strong point and that is really the big thing in his being chosen."

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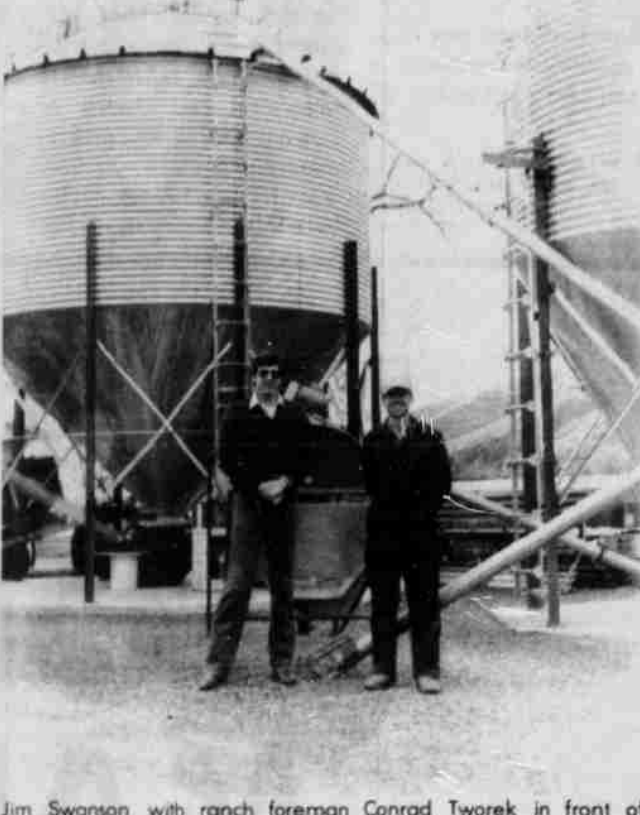
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Jim Swanson with ranch foreman Conrad Tworek in front of new seed processor.

A.A.U.W., Lions Club to hold joint meeting

By MARY ANN CERULLO

On Thursday, Mar. 29, the Heppner-Ione branch of the American Association of University Women will be holding a joint meeting with the Heppner Lions Club on the subject of Child Find. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. at David and April Sykes home, 360 Green Street, in Heppner, with an instruction session on how to fingerprint children, stated an A.A.U.W. spokesperson.

This portion of the evening will be geared towards those who will be authorized as fingerprinters.

At 7 p.m., members of A.A.U.W. will hold a monthly business meeting.

An informational meeting on Child Find will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be open to the public. Speaker for the evening will be Carol Hardie of Boardman, representing Friends of Child Find of Oregon.

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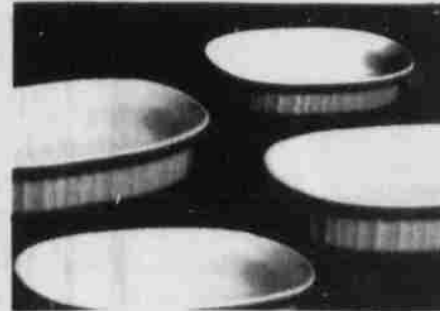
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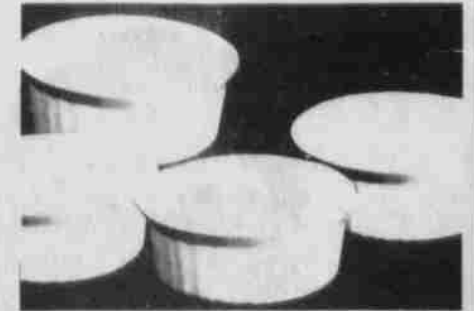
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